

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

Psychology is a hub science – it is at the heart of fundamental questions about human well-being, and at the center of solutions to many of our most pressing problems. The Psychology Department at The University of Utah offers PhDs in each of the following areas:

Cognition and Neural Science

Developmental Psychology

Social Psychology

Additional Social Sub-Specializations

Close Relationships and Interpersonal Processes

Diversity and Culture

Health and Well-Being

Clinical Psychology

Additional Clinical Sub-Specializations

Clinical Health Psychology

Clinical Child and Family

Clinical Neuropsychology

These areas provide a home base for faculty members and graduate students. Each area features faculty with interests in understanding perspectives of underrepresented groups and psychological topics that differentially impact disadvantaged and underrepresented populations.

A unique feature of our program is the highly collaborative environment that exists among researchers within areas, across areas, and with other departments. Students move easily across these areas pursuing research interests and projects, for example in the cross-area Behavioral Medicine Research Group. A strength of our interdisciplinary approach to graduate training is that our students gain experience working on multidisciplinary teams and have multiple employment opportunities during and after their graduate training.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Students admitted to our department are guaranteed 4 years of funding at levels competitive with other major research universities, and most students ultimately receive funding for the duration of their training beyond their 4th year.

Funding is provided through research and teaching assistantships, as well as university-wide fellowships. Additionally, students in our program compete successfully for federal funding through the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health, and other foundations. Funding to present at conferences is available from the department and the U's Graduate School.

Students in our department regularly publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals, present at national conferences, and ultimately compete successfully for prestigious post-doctoral fellowships, academic faculty positions, and other jobs in industry, technology, and the health sciences.

Recent Student Recognition:

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

- **Michaela Mozley** (Advisor: Patricia Kerig), *“Investigating empathic withdrawal as a mechanism accounting for the association between exposure to violence and recidivism among delinquent youth.”*
- **Kent Hinkson** (Advisor: Craig Bryan), *“The influence of disaggregated posttraumatic stress disorder on the academic performance of student veterans in postsecondary education.”*
- **Crosby Modrowski** (Advisor: Patricia Kerig), *The role of desensitization in explaining the association between childhood trauma exposure & adolescent delinquency.”*

NSF-funded STEM Ambassador Program

- **Lace Padilla** (Advisor: Sarah Creem-Regehr)
- **Lauren Williams** (Advisor: Trafton Drew)

Recent Student Publications:

Perry, N. S., Huebner, D. M., Baucom, B. R., & Hoff, C. (2016). Relationship power, sociodemographics, and their relative influence on sexual agreements among gay male couples. *AIDS and Behavior*.

Roberge, E.M., Allen, N., Taylor, J., & Bryan, C.J. (2016). Relationship functioning in Vietnam veteran couples: the roles of PTSD and anger. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*.

Chen, J.M., & **Norman, J.B.** (2016). Toward a comprehensive understanding of the factors underlying multiracial person perception. *Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy*.

Diamond, L. M., **Dickenson, J. A.**, & Blair, K. L. (2016). Stability of Sexual Attractions Across Different Timescales: The Roles of Bisexuality and Gender. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.



DIVERSITY-RELATED FUNDING

• **Clayton Award for Research on Underrepresented Populations** (\$4000): A departmental award supporting research which focuses on participants who are underrepresented in our community or in psychological research in general.

• **Hiatt Graduate Student Scholarships** (\$5500): Awards intended to enhance the ethnic and cultural diversity of the graduate student body at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. These awards are usually made to students from traditionally underrepresented groups. The “cultural diversity” category has been used in the past to make awards to people who contribute to diversity in ways other than (or in addition to) their ethnic minority status.

• **Excellence Through Diversity Fellowship** (\$6250/semester + tuition): Supports students from communities underrepresented in higher education in order to include racially and ethnically diverse communities and to create an enhanced environment for all students.

• **University Teaching Assistantship** (\$15,000 + tuition): To improve graduate education programs and training at the University of Utah in the service of undergraduate education through the creative use of graduate teaching assistants.

Ethnic Group	Utah	SLC	Grad St	Psych
Hispanic or Latino/a	13.3%	22.3%	4.3%	11.1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	3.2%	6.4%	3.9%	3.7%
Multiracial	2.3%	3.7%	1.4%	2.6%
American Indian	1.5%	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%
African American	1.3%	2.7%	1.0%	1.6%
White (not Hisp / Latino)	79.9%	65.6%	67.7%	75.2%